

Town of Bridgewater Snow Plowing Policy

The Town would like to remind residents of its policy regarding plowing, blocked driveways, mailbox damage, private plowing, and parked vehicles.

The Town has approximately 36 miles of local roadway that it maintains and plows. The State of Connecticut DOT plows Routes 67, 133, and Clapboard Road. Due to the high costs of removing snow, it is important for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to use its resources wisely, with cooperation from residents to minimize cost.

The roadways are plowed and sanded in order of priority. Main roads are addressed first, with special attention paid to steep hills and intersections. Side roads are done next.

With respect to blocked driveways; all snow plows angle the same direction and will push snow in front of a driveway when passing by. Homeowners are responsible for clearing their own driveways.

The Town does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that crack or break from the force of plowed snow or because they were improperly installed. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal, including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside.

Mailboxes should be 12 inches away from the edge of the road and 41-45 inches high to the bottom of the mailbox. The Town will repair or replace mailboxes/and or posts that are actually struck by a plow blade or truck. Usually, paint marks or tire tracks supply evidence of a mailbox strike. In this case, a standard 4x4 post and mailbox will be installed. It is always the homeowner's responsibility to clear the mailbox for postal delivery.

The Town prohibits private plows from pushing snow/ice from driveways or parking lots onto town roads. This practice is dangerous and impedes the Town's snow removal efforts. If there is no other alternative to pushing snow/ice into the road, the plow driver must plow off the snow piles left across the road by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but it should be no worse than when the driver began work.

It is a safety hazard to residents and plow drivers when vehicles are parked along the roadside. Not only do parked vehicles reduce the sight line for pedestrians and oncoming vehicles, but they also force the plows to veer out of the travel lane. Residents are asked to remove vehicles from the roadway prior to a snow/ice event.